

And the Winner Is:

The Fanatics!

Number 2: The Coastliners

Number 3: The Fever Tree

By LYN BILLINGSLEY, Post Modern Living Editor

NEAL FORD and the Fanatics are the first place winners in The Houston Post's Teen Music Contest.

Second place goes to The Coastliners, who were merely a hot breath away from the Fanatics.

The Fever Tree, with a record in sixth spot on the Houston polls, took third, snatching it from the teeth of Thursday's Children, in the last two days of voting.

The voters are a loyal and tight lot and they voice their faithfulness in the maximum of adjectives on their ballots.

"Neal Ford is number one and great . . ." wrote Ray Larson, 5338 Willowbend, more correct than he knew at the time.

"Great" was the code word for everything good, but "scintillating," "groovy," and "spectacular" got a good work out. Sometimes it was a matter of love—"I love you," sang girlish voices to various members of Houston's musical groups.

THE top 10 finalists in the voting were The Fanatics, The Coastliners, The Fever Tree, Thursday's Children, The 13th Floor Elevators, The Sixpentz, The Surf Knights, Jake and the Jokers, The Red Crayola and The Dimensions. The last four listed were write-

in candidates. A total of 47 write-in candidates made tally charts.

Speaking of The 13th Floor Elevators, they were listed as an "area group" because they record out of Houston and have been stationed here a month. The way groups come and go, that month and their work gives them resident-status.

Votes came from students at Texas A&M University and the University of Texas, from Rosenberg, LaMarque, Baytown, Port Arthur, Pasadena, Bellair, Deer Park, where teen sifers have a real thing going for The Dimensions and Galena Park where Jake and the Jokers hold forth—and every section of Houston.

Back to those comments:

"I love, crave and admire Thursday's Children. No one else measures up to them."

"The Coastliners are the greatest!"

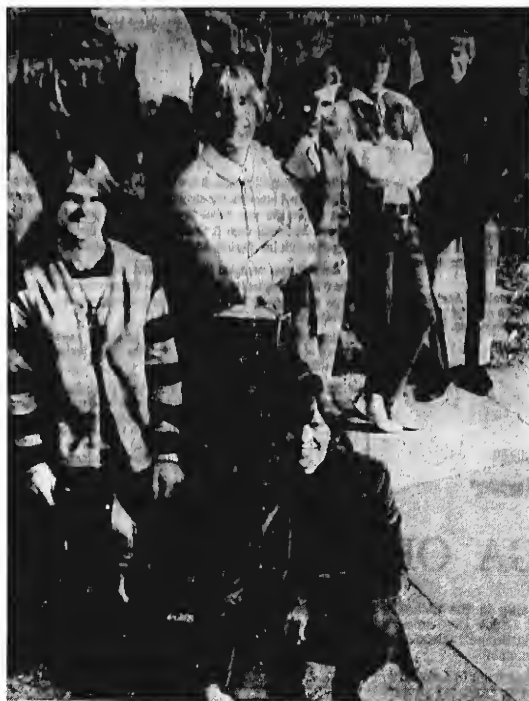
"The Sixpentz are tuff!"

"Jake (and the Jokers) is the best singer in town."

"The Countdown 5 are THE best, even if they haven't had a national release yet."

SHARON BOWMAN of Tomball expressed everybody's attitude in a letter: "Houston IS becoming a now-sound city."

And the judges agreed as they bent weary heads over ballots in the lamp-light.



HERE
THEY
ARE:

The top three teen music groups in Houston are Neal Ford and the Fanatics, top right; The Coastliners, left, and The Fever Tree, right. Their awards—plaques for each group—will be presented Saturday on the Larry Kane Show.

